

408

used to make charcoal for the woman's irons. Coconut "milk" is obtained by squeezing grated meat in water and dippers and cups are carved from the hard shells. Sap from the coconut palm produces mildly alcoholic drink, tuba, that is popular throughout the Philippines. Only one man made tuba in Barrio Saticugan so the account that follows is based mainly on this informant's explanation. Tuba is considered superior to gubang by the barriofolk and costs more when purchased in the oblacion. So little tuba is made, however, that it is difficult to buy the drink at stores. The alcoholic content of tuba and gubang appears to be about the same for a given period of fermentation.

272

273

[262]
[435]

Tuba is the drink produced from the sap collected from the bud (bulog) of the coconut tree. Since the bud produces the coconuts, ~~making tuba~~ reduces the yield of the tree; this is one reason why some owners did not make tuba. A coconut tree selected for tuba-making should have at least three buds. The crown mat-like material (pinit) is cleaned away from the top of the tree where the fronds radiate outward--a process called la-as. Stones are placed on the broad stems of the fronds where they grow from the trunk to push them downward to make it easier to get at the bud.

The selected bud is wrapped with rattan and the end is tied to a branch, pulling the bud downward to facilitate the flow of the sap. The tip of the bud is cut every day so the sap will continue to flow liberally. At the bud's

430

are said today to be more numerous than before the war. One man has a herd of 150 goats that graze on Bondo.

231

Goats are much easier to care for than pigs. A rattan-woven collar is put around their necks and they are tied to stakes to graze. Now and then, like horses, they may be driven to the sea to obtain salt.

Most Filipinos do not drink goat milk. For Caticugan barriofolk this is not due to a dislike of milk; canned milk is a luxury much desired. The reasons why no goat's milk is drunk are that the female goats are either pregnant or they are nursing kids. The people prefer increase in the herd to drinking the milk. No handicrafts use goat or pig hides since the method of preparing the animals for eating does not produce any skins.

272
231

Chickens

One of my favorite riddles collected in Caticugan is:

231
524

Rain or shine,
Always wearing short pants. What is it?

(Mag-ulan ug mag-init,
Sigi rang gapinungkol. Unsa man?)⁷⁹

The answer is "a rooster"! Nearly every family in Caticugan had a few chickens (manok). Fowls run loose, foraging for food during the day; at night they roost in the trees.

⁷⁹There is a similar Tagalog riddle: "Muddy or not muddy, the dress is raised to the knees." Manuel Buaken, I Have Lived with the American People. Idaho, Caston Printers, Ltd., 1948, p. 353.